

Standard 3-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the events that led to the Civil War, the course of the War and Reconstruction, and South Carolina's role in these events.

3-4.4 Outline the course of the Civil War and South Carolina's role in significant events, including the Secession Convention, the firing on Fort Sumter, the Union blockade of Charleston, and Sherman's march through South Carolina. (H, G)

Taxonomy Level: B 4 Analyze / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time that students will learn about the circumstances and the course of the Civil War.

In 4th grade, students will summarize significant key battles, strategies, and turning points of the Civil War—including the battles of Fort Sumter and Gettysburg, the Emancipation Proclamation, the significance of the Gettysburg Address, and the surrender at Appomattox—and the role of African Americans in the War (4-6.4). Students will compare the roles and accomplishments of key figures of the Civil War, including Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, and Robert E. Lee (4-6.5).

In 8th grade, students will compare the military strategies of the North and South with regard to specific events and geographic locations in South Carolina, including the capture of Port Royal, the Union blockade of Charleston, and Sherman's march through the state (8-3.5).

In United States History, students will outline the course and outcome of the Civil War, including the role of African American military units; the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation; and the geographic, political, and economic factors involved in the defeat of the Confederacy (USHC-4.3).

It is essential for students to know about significant events leading up to the Civil War and events occurring during the course of the Civil War in South Carolina.

As a result of the election of Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States [November 1860], a **Secession Convention** was held in Columbia, then moved to Charleston [December, 1860]. Almost all members of the convention voted to secede, or no longer be part of the United States. They signed the Ordinances of Secession. South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union, even before Lincoln was sworn in as president.

Soon other states joined South Carolina and formed a new country, the Confederate States of America. They wrote a constitution and elected a president, Jefferson Davis. [January, 1861] The Confederacy began to form an army and to take over forts and other property located in the South that belonged to the national government. The Confederate government ordered the Union soldiers to leave **Fort Sumter**, located in Charleston harbor. The United States army refused to obey the orders of the Confederate States of America. President Lincoln would not recognize the Confederate split from the Union and sent supplies to the federal troops at Fort Sumter. Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter before the supply ships could arrive. The bombardment continued until the Union troops surrendered. Federal troops were allowed to leave peacefully but the Civil War had begun.

President Lincoln and the Union army prepared for war. So did the Confederate States of America. South Carolina depended on the export of cotton in exchange for imports of much needed war supplies from Europe so the United States Navy blockaded the port of Charleston. The Union blockade brought great hardship to the people of South Carolina because they could not get needed food and supplies.

Determined to break the blockade, the Confederacy developed the first submarines near the end of the war. The Confederate ship, *The Hunley*, was the first submarine to sink an enemy warship. However, *The Hunley* itself sank and was not effective in breaking the Union blockade of the port of Charleston.

Most of the fighting in the Civil War took place outside of South Carolina. However, the war came to the state when the Union forces took over Port Royal near Hilton Head and tried to take Charleston for over a year. Towards the end of the war, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman led his troops across Georgia and South Carolina in an effort to split the Confederacy and finally bring an end to the war by using the tactic of total war. Sherman's "March to the Sea" from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia left behind a trail of destruction of burned and looted farms and plantations. Sherman continued the march through South Carolina from Savannah to Columbia. The city of Columbia burned and Sherman's troops headed north to the North Carolina border. The purpose of Sherman's march was to destroy available supplies and anything important to the economy in an effort to end the war and to convince the civilian population to end the war.

Students need to understand the geography of the region and be able to use maps to gather information and understand concepts such as the significance of the location of Fort Sumter, the blockade of Charleston and route of Sherman's march.

It is not essential for students to know that the Secession Convention was moved to Charleston because of an outbreak of smallpox. Students do not need to remember specific battles and dates or events that did not take place in South Carolina. However, understanding some of the war strategy, such as the effort of the Union forces to split the Confederacy at the Mississippi and the attacks of both sides on their respective capitals will help students understand why there was not much fighting in South Carolina. They do not need to know the names of military leaders, except for Sherman. They do not need to understand how *The Hunley* worked or the circumstances of its retrieval. They do not need to know about blockade runners, about the Port Royal experiment or about the siege of Charleston by land and the attack on Fort Wagner led by the 54th Massachusetts African American unit.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **outline** the course of the Civil War in South Carolina. Students should be able to **explain** specific important events in the course of the war in South Carolina such as the Secession Convention in South Carolina, the firing on Fort Sumter, the Union blockade and Sherman's march. They should be able to **explain** the cause and effect relationship between secession and Fort Sumter on the one hand and the blockade and Sherman's march on the other so students should be able to **outline** the order in which these events took place.

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